

April 21, 2019, Jerusalem

The International Ecotheological Conference

“Return to the Paradise:

Rediscovering Human’s Role as the Steward of Creation: Habitat Restoration, Water Resources, Energy Sustainability, and Environmental Justice”

In our time of urgent need for ecological conversion, we believe that the three religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam that stem from one root – should join their efforts and stand together in the Holy City to reinforce their commitment to take responsibility for God’s creation. This must be done in dialogue and collaboration with leading experts in environmental sciences, sustainable economy and policy making, as well as with all the people of good will.

The conference will take place in Jerusalem during Passover, the Jewish festival of liberation, celebrated also by Muslims, and the Christian feast of Resurrection of Jesus. This feast is the symbol of life, restoration and sustainability. It reflects the miracle of God’s intervention in human history and it calls us to perform a new miracle of peace between the nations, religions, humans, as well as between humanity and the natural world.

The conference will be followed by a joint interreligious prayer for creation.

The increasing effects of human activity around the globe in modern days have given cause to turn to the richness of traditional theological ideas about the role, place and status of the human being in the world. This conference will focus on dialoguing ecotheological and interdisciplinary perspectives with special emphasis on terrene and marine habitat restoration, water stewardship and issues of energy management and sustainability, in the hope of offering theologically-inspired practical proposals for healing our common home and establishing environmental justice.

Organizers

The conference is jointly organized by Envirotech Education (Byron Bay, Australia) and Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine)

Panels

Panel 1. Returning to the Promised Land: Restoring Habitats Across the Globe

Habitat restoration has been a subject of interest of a wide range of research institutions, organisations and governments worldwide, due to the essential importance of natural habitats for functioning of both local and global ecosystems, as well as human civilisation(s) in general and in particular. This panel will be dedicated to theological reflection and practical faith-based projects related to habitat restoration, as well as actions aimed at preventing further destruction of marine ecosystems.

Panel 2. Holy Water in the Holy Land: Managing Water Resources

Water is the source of life for all living things. In the Holy Scriptures, water has been persistently mentioned in the context of theophanies and God's saving actions. Climate change is all the more associated with water scarcity, which puts before us a task to save watersheds and glaciers, as well as invent new, sustainable ways of water consumption that will result in more socially and environmentally just distribution of water. This problem will be discussed through the prism of Biblical and Quranic symbolics of water.

Panel 3. Coming back to the Tree of Life: Energy Sustainability

This panel will reflect on possibilities for religions worldwide to impact lifestyle choices and hierarchies of values to make resource consumption more reasonable and responsible. As fuel development all over the world earns more and more threatening scales, societies must go through a deep spiritual conversion and recognize the world as being the gift of God. The next step is a transfer to clean energy with unlimited sources. This panel will include spiritual, social and justice-related aspects of this problem altogether.

To participate in the conference, please contact: Maria Hupalo mhupalo@ucu.edu.ua and

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